

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HARRIMAN VISIT

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1. SUMMARY. VISIT OF GOVERNOR AVERELL HARRIMAN TO HUNGARY WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN TERMS OF FURTHERING DIALOGUE BETWEEN AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND MAINTAINING FORWARD MOMENTUM IN HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS GOVERNOR'S MEETING WITH JANOS KADAR BUT MEETINGS WITH FONMIN PUJA AND PRIME MINISTER GYORGY LAZAR AND DISCUSSION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF HUNGARIAN ELITE WERE ALSO VALUABLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. GOVERNOR HARRIMAN VISITED HUNGARY FROM JULY 16-21. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HIS GRANDSON, DAVID MORTIMER, AND LADY DIGBY, MRS. HARRIMAN'S SISTER-IN-LAW. GOVERNOR AND ALL MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WERE WELCOMED CORDIALLY AND GOH WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY FOR THEM BOTH IN OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND SOCIALLY.

3. JULY 17 GOVERNOR MET WITH FONMIN PUJA AND PRIME MINISTER LAZAR (REF (A)), FOLLOWED BY MEETING NEXT DAY WITH FIRST SECRETARY KADAR (REF (B)). FONMIN HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR GOVERNOR AND LATER ATTENDED A DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR KAISER. HSWP FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HEAD JANOS BEREZ ALSO ATTENDED LATTER DINNER ALONG WITH OTHER DIGNITARIES. AMBASSADOR KAISER ALSO HOSTED LARGE WELL-ATTENDED RECEPTION FOR GOVERNOR HARRIMAN ON JULY 18. DEPUTY FONMIN JANOS NAGY AND HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. FERENC ESTERGALYOS ATTENDED ALL FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AND ACCOMPANIED GOVERNOR HARRIMAN AND HIS PARTY ON ONE-AND-ONE-HALF-DAY VISIT TO VESZPREM, BABOLNA AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX AND HEREND CHINA FACTORY. RELAXED ATMOSPHERE DURING THIS TOUR GAVE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNOR, AMBASSADOR KAISER AND EMBOFF ACCOMPANYING PARTY TO HAVE INFORMAL TALKS ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS AND INTERNAL POLITICS WITH HUNGARIAN HOSTS.

4. GOVERNOR GAVE ONE-HOUR LONG PRESS CONFERENCE IN HUNGARIAN PRESS CLUB ON MORNING OF JULY 21 WHICH WAS COVERED IN ALL PAPERS. CONFERENCE WAS RUN BY CHIEF OF PRESS SECTION, MFA. AS IN HIS PRIVATE MEETINGS, HE DISCUSSED SALT, DISARMAMENT, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. OVER 50 HUNGARIAN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED, INCLUDING HUNGARIAN TELEVISION AND RADIO. FOREIGN JOURNALISTS REPRESENTED SOVIET UNION, PRC, MALI, YUGOSLAV, GDR, UPI AND AP STRINGERS. MEDIA TREATMENT WAS REASONABLY OBJECTIVE AND GAVE AT LEAST A PART OF THE U.S. POSITION ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, WHICH GOVERNOR PRESENTED FULLY. GOVERNOR ALSO GAVE ONE-HOUR INTERVIEW ON TAPE TO HUNGARIAN TV WITH PROSPECT THAT INTERVIEW WILL PROBABLY BE CUT TO HALF-HOUR AND SHOWN ON HUNGARIAN TV THIS FALL. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE THERE WERE DAILY REPORTS IN HUNGARIAN PRESS, ON RADIO AND TV CONCERNING VISIT.

5. DURING WEEK MRS. HARRIMAN AND MR. MORTIMER MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT OF HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK. ALONG WITH LADY DIGBY, MRS. HARRIMAN AND MR. MORTIMER ALSO VISITED A HUNGARIAN SCHOOL, HAD MEETINGS WITH HUNGARIAN CULTURAL LEADERS AND VISITED HUNGARIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS. WHOLE PARTY INCLUDING GOVERNOR, AND ACCOMPANIED BY JANOS NAGY, VISITED NATIONAL MUSEUM TO SEE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. AT MUSEUM THEY COULD SEE LARGE NUMBER OF HUNGARIANS WHO CONTINUE TO VISIT THE CROWN EXHIBIT.

6. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY'S VIEW VISIT OF GOVERNOR HARRIMAN WAS GREAT SUCCESS. NOT ONLY DID HUNGARIAN LEADERS GET EXPOSED TO AUTHORITATIVE EXPLANATION OF U.S. POLICY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS BUT THROUGH GOVERNOR'S MEETINGS EMBASSY GAINED FURTHER USEFUL INSIGHTS ON HUNGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY ATTITUDES. WE THINK TOP VIP TREATMENT ACCORDED GOVERNOR REFLECTS CURRENT POSITIVE PHASE IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND AUGURS WELL FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF TWO COUNTRIES.
EISENSTADT

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